

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 2408

EO 11652GDS
TAGS: MILI, OTRA, GR, HU, PL, GW
SUBJ: VISITS OF NDU AND EXECUTIVE SEMINAR - TRIP NWC 3

REF: WARSAW 2175 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY: THE MFA INFORMED US "UNOFFICIALLY" TODAY (MARCH 21) THAT THE NDU VISIT COULD NOT BE APPROVED FOR THIS YEAR, BUT THE EXECUTIVE SEMINAR WOULD BE WELCOMED. THE TURNDOWN OF THE NDU WAS INITIALLY ASCRIBED TO "TECHNICAL TEASONS". FURTHER DISCUSSION, HOWEVER, REVEALED THAT RECENT BILATERAL PROBLEMS WERE THE TRUE CAUSE. END SUMMARY.

2. ZDZISLAW SZEWCZYK, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT III, MFA, TOLD THE DCM THE POLISH DECISION ON THESE TWO VISITS IS NOT YET FINAL. CONSIDERING THE SHORT TIME REMAINING BEFORE THE REQUESTED NDU VISIT, HOWEVER, SZEWCZYK SAID HE WANTED US TO KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THAT IT WOULD ALMOST SURELY NOT BE APPROVED BY THE POLES. THE EXECUTIVE SEMINAR, ON THE EYTER HAND, WOULD BE WELCOMED ON THE MAY 19-20 DATES WE PROPOSED, AND THE POLISH SIDE WOULD SOON BE READY TO WORK WITH US ON A SUITABLE PROGRAM.

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3. WHEN PRESSED FOR AN EXPLANATION OF THE POLISH DECISION ON NDU, SZEWCZYK FIRST CITED "TECHNICAL REASONS", WHICH HE EXPLAINED HAD TO DO WITH THE SHORT LEAD TIME AVAILABLE AND THE DIFFICULTY OF LINING UP APPROPRIATE POLES FOR THE NDU GROUP TO MEET. WHEN TOLD THAT THERE WAS SOME

FLEXIBILITY IN BOTH DATES AND PROGRAMMING, SZEWCZYK THEN CITED THE "INAPPROPRIATENESS" OF A VISIT DURING THE THIRTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE POLISH ARMED FORCES. EMBASSY OFFICER SAID THE LARGELY CIVILIAN NATURE OF THE PROGRAM WE HAD IN MIND SHOULD NOT CAUSE A PROBLEM IN THIS REGARD. SZEWCZYK THEN SAID, SPEAKING "VERY PERSONALLY" THAT RECENT BILATERAL PROBLEMS (IE, THE HABDAS CASE AND THE LOWENSTEIN VISIT) REPRESENTED THE REAL REASON FOR THE POLISH TURNDOWN. HE SAW NO PROSPECT OF CHANGING THIS DECISION, WHICH HE SAID HE WOULD GIVE US OFFICIALLY WITHIN A FEW DAYS.

4. THE EMBASSY OFFICER EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THIS DECISION, ALL THE MORE SO IN LIGHT OF EARLIER PROMISING SIGNS THAT AN NDU VISIT MIGHT BE ACCEPTED THIS YEAR. SZEWCZYK SAID HE TOO WAS DISAPPOINTED AND HAD THOUGHT EARLIER THAT THE CHANCES OF APPROVAL WERE GOOD. HE ADDED THAT HE HOPED SUCH A VISIT COULD BE SCHEDULED FOR NEXT YEAR.

5. COMMENT: WHEN THE POLES CONFIRM THIS DECISION, WHICH THEY PROBABLY WILL NEXT WEEK, WE RECOMMEND THAT WE DROP THE SUBJECT FOR THIS YEAR. AS FOR 1979, WE
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SUGGEST THAT AN NDU VISIT SIMILAR TO THE ONE WE HAD IN MIND FOR THIS YEAR BE DISCUSSED WITH THE POLES EARLY IN THE 78/79 ACADEMIC YEAR. IN OTHER WORDS, WE SHOULD GIVE THEM AS MUCH ADVANCE WORD AS POSSIBLE AND TRY TO GET A COMMITMENT BY EARLY WINTER AT THE LATEST. WITH REGARD TO THE EXECUTIVE SEMINAR, WE WILL BEGIN DETAILED DISCUSSION OF A PROGRAM AS SOON AS THE POLES ARE READY TO TALK.
END COMMENT.
SCHAUFELLE

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